

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A powder metal composition for producing powder metal components comprising a Co-based pre-alloyed powder, with irregularly shaped particles comprising at least 15% by weight Cr and less than 0.3% by weight C, admixed with graphite.
2. (Original) A powder metal composition according to claim 1 further comprising at least one element selected from the group consisting of W and Mo.
3. (Previously Presented) A powder metal composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one alloying element selected from Ni, Fe, Si, Mn, V and B.
4. (Previously Presented) A powder metal composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of C in the pre-alloyed powder is less than 0.1% by weight.
5. (Previously Presented) A powder metal composition according to claim 1, comprising: 15-35% by weight Cr, 0-20% by weight W, 0-25% by weight Ni, 0-5% by weight Si, 0-5% by weight Fe, 0-10% by weight Mo, the balance being Co.

6. (Previously Presented) A powder metal composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of admixed graphite is at least 0.5% by weight.

7. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, further comprising one or more additives selected from the group consisting of lubricants, processing aids alloying elements and binders.

8. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a component of a Co-based alloy with high green strength and high green density comprising the steps:

a) providing a powder metal composition comprising a Co-based pre-alloyed powder, with irregularly shaped particles comprising at least 15% by weight Cr and less than 0.3% by weight C, admixed with graphite; and

b) compacting the composition in a die at a pressure of at least 400 MPa to a component of desired shape.

9. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, wherein the pre-alloyed powder contains less than 0.1% by weight C.

10. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, wherein the content of admixed graphite is at least 0.5% by weight.

11. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step:

c) sintering the component.

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11, wherein the sintering is performed at a temperature of at least 1080°C in a protective atmosphere or vacuum.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A powder metal composition according to claim 2, further comprising at least one alloying element selected from Ni, Fe, Si, Mn, V and B.

15. (Previously Presented) A powder metal composition according to claim 2, wherein the content of C in the pre-alloyed powder is less than 0.1% by weight.

16. (Previously Presented) A powder metal composition according to claim 3, wherein the content of C in the pre-alloyed powder is less than 0.1% by weight.

17. (Previously Presented) A powder metal composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of C in the pre-alloyed powder is less than 0.05% by weight.

18. (Previously Presented) A powder metal composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of the admixed graphite is at least 0.7% by weight.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, wherein the pre-alloyed powder contains less than 0.05% by weight C.

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 9, wherein the content of admixed graphite is at least 0.5% by weight.

21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, wherein the content of the admixed graphite is at least 0.7% by weight.

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 9, wherein the content of the admixed graphite is at least 0.7% by weight.

23 to 25. (Canceled)